

# Piri Reis – Cartographer of Suleiman the Magnificent

## Exhibition in Croatia



On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the publication of the world map produced by Piri Reis in 1513, UNESCO proclaimed 2013 the *Year of Piri Reis*. For this occasion, the Turkish Foundation for Underwater Archaeology organized the exhibition titled *Piri Reis – Cartographer of Suleiman the Magnificent* in Croatia. The most important works of this famous cartographer from the time of Suleiman the Magnificent were presented at the exhibition. The exhibition was held in Rijeka (Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka, June 5 – September 3), Poreč (Native Museum of Poreč, September 5–30), Zagreb (Technical Museum, October 2 – November 10), and Dubrovnik (Ethnographic Museum, November 15 – December 30) as a part of a series of international events organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey on the occasion of the mentioned anniversary. Croatia was chosen to host this exhibition because there are many maps of Croatian cities and islands in Piri Reis's book titled *Kitab-i Bahriye* (*Book of Navigation*) from 1521.

tinčić from the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka. The Embassy of the Republic of

Turkey in Croatia was the patron of the exhibition, and the airline company Turkish Airlines was the sponsor. The exhibition was supported by the Croatian-Turkish Friendship Association and the Croatian-Turkish Society – Rijeka. Ali Riza Işıpek is responsible for the design of the poster and the exhibition catalogue. The catalogue is a bilingual publication (English and Croatian) which does not contain a list of exhibits presented at the exhibition, but contains biographical data, the text on the importance of the 1513 world map and of the Ottoman navy during the time of Piri Reis. Contents of *Kitab-i Bahriye* is described and portolans of the Adriatic ports and islands with their short descriptions and reproductions are listed.

The preserved part of the 1513 world map was presented at the exhibition, as well as two maps of Croatian ports, several navigational instruments from the 16th century, two versions of *Kitab-i Bahriye*, enlarged reproductions of portolans of Croatian cities and islands from *Kitab-i Bahriye* and their reproductions made on iznik ceramics, a ceramic technique which was very popular during the time of Suleiman the Magnificent. The exhibition was complemented with a text about Piri Reis's life, portraits of Suleiman the Magnificent, Barbarossa Hayreddin Pasha and Piri Reis, and other works of historical and artistic value related to cartography and the armada of the Ottoman Empire during the 16th century.

The following lectures were held at the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka in June:

- *Piri Reis and Oriental Cartographic Perception of the Eastern Adriatic coast in the Early Modern Period*, Dr. Dubravka Mlinarić, Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies

- *Science and Art at the Time of Suleiman the Magnificent: Sultan Patronage and Creation of the Ottoman Classics*, Dr. Vjeran Kursar, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb
- *Two Ottoman Description of the Southern Adriatic: Piri Reis and Evliya Çelebi*, Prof. Dr. Nenad Moačanin, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb.

Let us mention that the Croatian Cartographic Society organized the celebration of its 12th anniversary in the Technical Museum in Zagreb with a keynote lecture *Piri Reis and Ottoman Cartography at the Time of Great Geographical Discoveries* held by Dr. Dubravka Mlinarić. Visitors were able to see the exhibition after the lecture.

Having successfully prepared the 2013 exhibition in four Croatian cities (Rijeka, Poreč, Zagreb and Dubrovnik), the exhibition *Piri Reis – Cartographer of Suleiman the Magnificent* is going to be held in the Rector's Palace in Zadar from January 8 to 27, 2014. The exhibition is prepared by the Turkish Foundation for Underwater Archaeology in collaboration with the National Museum Zadar, the University of Zadar and the Croatian Geographical Society – Zadar.

Piri Reis (Hadji Muhyiddin Piri) was a pirate, sailor, admiral and cartographer. He was born between 1465 and 1470 in Gelibol, the most important Ottoman sea base of that time. His uncle Kemal Reis was a famous pirate and sailor with, who Piri Reis sailed with and studied from. From 1487 to 1493, he sailed along the coast of North Africa, Spain and Italy, but also around islands of the western Mediterranean. During navigation, he wrote notes and drew

# Piri Reis – kartograf Sulejmana Veličanstvenog

## Izložba u Hrvatskoj

U povodu 500. obljetnice objave karte svijeta što ju je izradio Piri Reis 1513. godine UNESCO je 2013. godinu proglasio *Godinom Piri Reisa*. Tom je prigodom Turska zaklada za podvodnu arheologiju organizirala u Hrvatskoj izložbu pod naslovom *Piri Reis – kartograf Sulejmana Veličanstvenog* na kojoj su predstavljeni najvažniji radovi ovoga slavnog kartografa iz doba Sulejmana Veličanstvenog. Izložba je održana u Rijeci (Pomorski i povijesni muzej Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka, 5. 6–3. 9.), Poreču (Zavičajni muzej Poreštine, 5–30. 9.), Zagrebu (Tehnički muzej, 2. 10. – 10. 11.), Dubrovniku (Etnografski muzej, 15. 11. – 30. 12.) u sklopu niza međunarodnih događanja što ih je Ministarstvo kulture i turizma Republike Turske organiziralo povodom spomenute obljetnice. Hrvatska je odabrana za domaćina ove izložbe zbog postojanja mnogobrojnih karata hrvatskih gradova i otoka u knjizi Piri Reisa *Kitab-i Bahriye* (Knjiga plovidbe) iz 1521. godine.

Autori izložbe bili su Ali Riza Işıpek iz Turske zaklade za podvodnu arheologiju i Tea Perinčić iz Pomorskog i povijesnog muzeja Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka. Pokrovitelj izložbe bilo je Veleposlanstvo Republike Turske u Hrvatskoj, a sponzor zrakoplovna kompanija Turkish Airlines. Izložbu su potpomogli Hrvatsko-turska udruga prijateljstva i Hrvatsko-tursko društvo – Rijeka. Za dizajn postera i kataloga izložbe zaslužan je Ali Riza Işıpek. Katalog je dvojezična publikacija (engleski i hrvatski) koja ne sadrži popis izložaka koji su prikazani na izložbi već su u njemu najprije dani biografski podaci, zatim tekst o važnosti karte svijeta iz 1513. godine i osmanskoj mornarici u doba Piri Reisa. U nastavku kataloga ukratko je opisan sadržaj knjige *Kitab-i Bahriye* te su navedeni portulani jadranskih luka i otoka s



njihovim kratkim opisima i reprodukcijama nekih od njih.

Na izložbi je bio prikazan sačuvani dio karte svijeta iz 1513. godine, dvije karte hrvatskih luka, nekoliko navigacijskih instrumenata iz 16. stoljeća, dva primjerka *Kitab-i Bahriye*, uvećane reprodukcije portulana hrvatskih gradova i otoka iz *Kitab-i Bahriye* te njihove reprodukcije izrađene na iznik keramici, tehnici keramike koja je bila vrlo popularna u vrijeme Sulejmana Veličanstvenog. Izložba je bila upotpunjena tekstom o životu Piri Reisa, portretima Sulejmana Veličanstvenog, Barbarosse Hayreddina Paše i Pirija Reisa, te drugim djelima povijesne i umjetničke vrijednosti vezana uz kartografiju i armadu Osmanskog Carstva 16. stoljeća.

Povodom izložbe u lipnju su u Pomorskom i povijesnom muzeju Hrvatskog primorja Rijeka održana prigodna predavanja:

- *Znanost i umjetnost u doba Sulejmana Veličanstvenog: sultansko pokroviteljstvo i stvaranje osmanskih klasika*, dr. sc. Vjeran Kursar s Filozofskoga fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu
  - *Dva osmanska opisa južnog Jadrana: Piri Reis i Evlija Čelebi*, prof. dr. sc. Nenad Moacanin s Filozofskoga fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu.
- Spomenimo da je Hrvatsko kartografsko društvo obilježavanje svoje 12. obljetnice osnivanja organiziralo u Tehničkom muzeju u Zagrebu s prigodnim predavanjem *Piri Reis i osmanska kartografija u doba velikih geografskih otkrića* koje je održala dr. sc. Dubravka Mlinarić. Nakon predavanja posjetitelji su mogli razgledati izložbu.
- Nakon što je izložba u 2013. godini bila uspješno priređena u četiri hrvatska grada (Rijeka, Poreč, Zagreb i Dubrovnik), izložba *Piri Reis – kartograf Sulejmana Veličanstvenog* će biti postavljena u Kneževoj palači u Zadru, a moći će se razgledati od 8. do 27. siječnja 2014. Izložbu priređuje Turska zaklada za podvodnu arheologiju u suradnji s Narodnim muzejom Zadar, Sveučilištem u Zadru i



sketches of the coast and islands. He collected drawings and maps. In 1487, he took part in an assault on Malaga, although he was only 16 or 17 years old. He also participated in the sea battles at Valencia, Sardinia, Sicily and Corsica. In 1495, sultan Bayezid II offered his uncle a position of a navy admiral and the title *reis* (which probably meant the status of an admiral or a captain). Piri Reis commanded his own ship in Kemal's fleet in the war between the Ottoman Empire and Venice from 1499 to 1502. In 1506, Kemal and Piri took control over a navigable route Sicily-Tunisia. In 1511, Kemal died in a shipwreck near Rhodes, but Piri had not accompanied him on that campaign. Piri Reis also collaborated with Ottoman pirate Barbarossa in robbing French merchant ships.

He finished the first of his two world maps in Gelibol in 1513. Only the part showing the Atlantic with parts of the western African coast and the eastern coast of the New World has been preserved. It is likely that the map presented the entire Europe, Asia, Africa and the discovered parts of America. The inscriptions on the margins note that he was using Columbus's map.

In 1517, Piri Reis commanded a flotilla which accompanied the grand vizier Ibrahim Pasha on his way to Alexandria. With a part of the fleet, he sailed upstream along the Nile to Cairo, where he presented his world map to sultan Selim I.

He united his notes and maps in the first manuscript version of *Kitab-i Bahriye* in 1521. The revised and expanded manuscript (210 instead of 130 chapters and maps in the first version) from 1526 was given to Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent with the help of Ibrahim Pasha. That practical sailing, but also artistic manuscript was called "...the greatest geographic Ottoman

collection of its time". Numerous copies of the manuscript are kept in several libraries in Istanbul and throughout the world. It provides data about sailing and navigation of that time besides a lot of information about the Mediterranean, its towns and countries. The book begins with a long poetic introduction, which was probably written by court historian and writer Muradi according to Piri Reis's information. In the introduction of the second version, which was written in verses, information are given about almost all conditions and aspects of sailing, wind directions, compass, determination of latitude, process of making and using maps, sea and ocean geography and new geographic discoveries of the Spaniards and the Portuguese. The middle part of *Kitab-i Bahriye* written in prose contains more than 200 charts with very detailed descriptions of Mediterranean islands, coasts and harbours. Each chapter is dedicated to a particular Mediterranean region and is accompanied with maps. The presentations of the Adriatic Sea and western Italian coast have gone through the largest changes in regard to the first edition. Each map has its own windrose, oriented toward north.

One of the versions of *Kitab-i Bahriye* from 1526 is kept in the Süleymaniye Library in Ayasofya in Istanbul. That version was the official facsimile edition published in four volumes by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Turkish Republic in 1988 in Ankara.

Twenty-three maps representing the Croatian coast and the islands of the eastern Adriatic were published in the chapter *Dalmaçya kıyilari*. That chapter contains maps of Dubrovnik with surroundings, Šibenik, Zadar, Medulin, Pula, Rovinj, Vrsar, Poreč, Novigrad, Umag, maps of the islands of Mljet, Korčula, Vis, Hvar, Molat, Škarda, Rab, Premuda, Pag, Krk, Cres, Unije, Veruda.

Piri Reis made a second world map in 1528/29 which he also gave to the sultan as a gift. Discoveries made since the first world map was made are recorded on it. As is the case of the map from 1513, the only preserved part is a quarter of the whole map, a description of the Atlantic Ocean with a part of the New World.

Piri Reis commanded ships anchored in Suez, sailing in the Red and the Arab Seas as an admiral in 1547. Having supplied his fleet in Yemen, he attacked Aden in 1548, and conquered it in 1549. The last campaign was against the Portuguese near Hormuz in 1550–1552, but he did not succeed in taking the citadel.

At the age of eighty, he was accused of the intrigues on the court and of conspiracy and was arrested. He was also accused of leaving the fleet and of cowardice, for protecting his own interests and wealth, which he acquired through years of piracy and sailing. Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent accused him for treason and condemned him to death. Piri Reis was executed in Egypt in 1554, and his riches were given to the state treasury and subsequently forwarded to the Topkapi Serai Palace in Istanbul.

Piri Reis's portolans are among the oldest Ottoman cartographic documents representing Croatian countries at a larger scale. *Kitab-i Bahriye* is a part of portolan tradition of the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance. It was a manual for sailors, like *isolarii* and portolans were. The book represents a real manual for navigating the Adriatic Sea.

Miljenko Lapaine  
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Hrvatskim geografskim društvom – Zadar.

Piri Reis (Hadji Muhyiddin Piri) bio je gusar, moreplovac, admiral i kartograf. Rođen je oko 1465–1470 u Galipolju (Gelibolu), tada najznačajnijoj turskoj pomorskoj bazi. Njegov stric Kemal Reis bio je poznati gusar i moreplovac s kojim je Piri Reis počeo ploviti i od njega učiti. Od 1487. do 1493. plovio je obalom sjeverne Afrike, Španjolske i Italije kao i otočjem zapadnog Sredozemlja. Za vrijeme plovidbe vodio je bilješke i skicirao obale i otočja. Skupljao je crteže i karte. Godine 1487. sudjelovao je u napadu na Malagu, iako mu je bilo tek 16 ili 17 godina. Sudjelovao je i u pomorskim bitkama kod Valencije, Sardinije, Sicilije i Korzike. Godine 1495. sultan Bajazid II. ponudio je stricu mjesto mornaričkog admirala i titulu *reis* (što je najvjerojatnije značilo status admirala ili kapetana). U tursko-venecijanskom ratu 1499–1502. Piri Reis je zapovijedao vlastitim brodom u Kemalovoj floti. Godine 1506. Kemal i Piri preuzeli su kontrolu na plovnoj ruti Sicilija-Tunis. Kemal je 1511. poginuo u brodolomu kod Rodosa, ali ga Piri nije tada pratio. Piri Reis je surađivao i s turskim gusarom Barbarossom u pljačkanju francuskih trgovačkih brodova.

U Galipolju je 1513. sastavio prvu od svoje dvije karte svijeta. Sačuvan je samo dio na kojem je prikazan Atlantik s dijelovima zapadne afričke obale i istočne obale Novog svijeta. Karta je vjerojatno prikazivala cijelu Europu, Aziju, Afriku i otkrivene dijelove Amerike. Na marginama napominje da se služio Kolumbovom kartom.

Godine 1517. zapovijedao je flotilom koja je pratila velikog vezira Ibrahim-pašu na putu u Aleksandriju. S dijelom flote plovio je Nilom uzvodno do Kaira, gdje je predstavio svoju kartu svijeta sultanu Selimu I.

Bilješke i karte objedinio je 1521. u prvu rukopisnu verziju *Kitab-i Bahriye*. Revidirani i prošireni (210 umjesto 130 poglavlja i karata) rukopis iz 1526. posredovanjem Ibrahim-paše predan je sultanu Sulejmanu Veličanstvenom. Taj praktični plovidbeni, ali i umjetnički

rukopis nazivali su "... najvećom geografskom otomanskom zbirkom svoga vremena". Mnogobrojne kopije toga rukopisa čuvaju se u nekoliko knjižnica u Istanbulu i diljem svijeta. Osim obilja podataka o Sredozemlju, gradovima i zemljama na njegovim obalama, pruža i podatke o pomorstvu i navigaciji toga doba. Knjiga počinje dugim poetskim uvodom, koji

je najvjerojatnije napisao dvorski historik i književnik Muradi prema podacima Piri Reisa. U uvodu druge verzije, pisane u stihovima, podaci su o gotovo svim uvjetima i aspektima plovidbe, o smjeru vjetrova, kompasu, određivanju geografske širine, izradi i upotrebi karata, pomorskoj i oceanskoj geografiji, te o novim geografskim otkrićima Španjolaca i Portugalaca. Središnji prozni tekst sadrži više od dvjesto pomorskih karata s vrlo detaljnim opisima otočja, obala i luka Sredozemlja. Svako poglavlje posvećeno je pojedinoj regiji Sredozemlja i popraćeno kartama. Najviše su u odnosu na prvu verziju promijenjeni prikazi Jadranskog mora i zapadne obale Italije. Svaka karta ima ružu vjetrova s oznakom sjevera.

Jedna od verzija *Kitab-i Bahriye* iz 1526. čuva se u knjižnici Süleymaniye, Ayasofya u Istanbulu. Ta je verzija bila službeno faksimilsko izdanje objavljeno u četiri sveska 1988. u Ankari u izdanju Ministarstva za kulturu i turizam Republike Turske. U poglavlju *Dalmaçya kıyilari* objavljene su 23 karte hrvatske obale i otočja istočnog Jadrana. To poglavlje sadrži karte gradova Dubrovnika s okolicom, Šibenika, Zadra, Medulina, Pule, Rovinja, Vrsara, Poreča, Novigrada, Umaga, zatim karte otoka Mljeta, Korčule, Visa, Hvara, Molata, Škarde, Raba, Premude, Paga, Krka, Cresa, Unije, Verude.

Godine 1528/29. Piri Reis je izradio i drugu kartu svijeta, koju je također poklonio sultanu. Na njoj su zabilježena



nova otkrića. Kao i u slučaju karte iz 1513., jedini sačuvani dio je četvrtina cjelokupne karte, odnosno opis Atlantskog oceana s dijelom Novog svijeta.

Godine 1547. kao admiral zapovijedao je brodovima na Crvenom i Arapskom moru, koji su bili stacionirani u Suezu. Nakon što se u Jemenu opskrbio brodovljem napao je Aden 1548. i osvojio ga 1549. Posljednji pohod vodio je protiv Portugalaca kod Hormuza 1550–1552, ali nije zauzeo citadelu.

U dobi od osamdeset godina, optužen je za intrige na dvoru i urotu te pri tvoren. Dodatno je optužen za napuštanje flote i kukavičluk zbog zaštite vlastitih interesa i bogatstva, stečenih u godinama piratstva i plovidbe. Sultan Sulejman Veličanstveni ga je optužio za izdaju i osudio na smrt. Pogubljen je 1554. u Egiptu, a njegova su bogatstva dodijeljena državnoj riznici i otpremljena u palaču Topkapi Serai u Istanbulu.

Portulani Piri Reisa ubrajaju se među najstarije kartografske dokumente osmanske izrade koji hrvatske zemlje prikazuju u krupnijem mjerilu. *Kitab-i Bahriye* je dio portulanske tradicije kasnog srednjeg vijeka i početka renesanse. To je priručnik za pomorce, slično kao što su bili izolari i portulani. Ujedno je pravi pomorski priručnik za navigaciju Jadranskim morem.

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Fotografije: Kristina Kalanj,  
Tehnički muzej ■